

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1. (Currently amended)** A program product, comprising:

a program linking program recorded on a storage medium for causing a computer having a memory to function at least as:

linking means for linking at least one of a plurality of unlinked programs for each of a plurality of to form a pre-linked program for linked programs advancing toward the completion of the plurality of a linked programsprogram;

storage means for storing the plurality of linked programspre-linked program in the memory either before or after completion of the linked program; and,

management means for causing the linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order and to such that a maximum cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is limit within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is selected from at least one of: an increasing order of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the plurality of linked programs;pre-linked program.

increasing order of size of each of the plurality of unlinked programs such that a program size of each of the plurality of linked programs is not always reduced;

increasing order of product of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the plurality of linked programs and a size of a corresponding one of the plurality of unlinked programs;

decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution; and

decreasing order of execution frequency of each of the plurality of unlinked programs accompanying execution of the plurality of linked programs.

**2. (Currently amended)** The program product according to claim 1, wherein the management

means causes the linking means to perform linking, and as a result determines the maximum limitcumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs.

**3. (Currently amended)** The program product according to claim 1, wherein the management means determines the maximum limit cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs by evaluating ~~a~~the size of each of the plurality of linked programs at each stage of linking without causing the linking means to perform linking.

**4-9. (Canceled)**

**10. (Currently amended)** A program linking method, comprising comprising:

linking ~~at least one of~~ a plurality of unlinked programs ~~for each of a plurality of linked programs~~ to form a pre-linked program ~~for advancing toward the completion of the plurality of a linked programs~~ program; and

storing in a memory the plurality of linked programs either pre-linked program before or after completion of the linked program, wherein said

linking is performed preferentially, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order among the plurality of unlinked programs ~~and to such that a maximum limit a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is~~ within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, and

wherein the predetermined priority order is selected from ~~at least one of~~an increasing order of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the plurality of linked programs;pre-linked program.

~~increasing order of size of each of the plurality of unlinked programs such that a program size of the plurality of linked programs is not always reduced;~~

~~increasing order of product of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the plurality of linked programs and a size of a corresponding one of the plurality of unlinked programs;~~

~~decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs on~~

~~execution; and~~

~~decreasing order of execution frequency of each of the plurality of unlinked programs accompanying execution of the plurality of linked programs.~~

**11. (New)** A program product comprising a program linking program recorded on a computer-readable storage medium for causing a computer having a memory function to function at least as:

linking means for linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storage means for storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of said linked program; and

management means for causing the linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is a decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution.

**12. (New)** A program linking method comprising:

linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of the linked program; and

causing a linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is a decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution.